

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

SMITH et al.

Atty. Ref.: 3691-311

Serial No. To be Assigned

Group:

Filed: September 27, 2001

Examiner:

For: EXTRUDED AUTOMOTIVE TRIM AND METHOD OF MAKING SAME

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September 27, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-28.

Please add the following new claims:

-- 29. (New) A method of making a colored automotive trim product, the method comprising:

extruding an approximately planar sheet including a colored layer including color pigment material;

providing a substantially transparent clear coat layer comprising a thermoplastic fluorinated polymer over the colored layer;

providing at least one tie layer between the colored layer and the substantially transparent clear coat layer;

positioning the substantially transparent clear coat layer together with the colored layer and the tie layer in a vacuum forming apparatus;

vacuum forming the substantially transparent clear coat layer together with the colored layer and the tie layer into a three dimensionally shaped preform; and

utilizing the three dimensionally shaped preform as at least a portion of an exterior trim product for a vehicle.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the thermoplastic fluorinated polymer comprises polyvinyl fluoroide, and wherein the colored layer comprises polyolefinic thermoplastic resin (TPO).

31. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising forming a base layer comprising polyolefinic thermoplastic resin (TPO) beneath the colored layer so that the colored layer is provided between the base layer and the tie layer.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said base layer comprising TPO is formed by injection molding, and wherein said base layer comprising TPO is of a different material than said colored layer so that said base layer and said colored layer are separate and distinct different layers. --

REMARKS

SMITH et al.

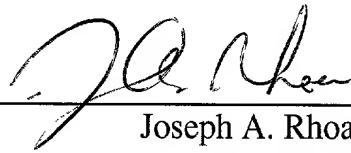
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This application is a continuation of Application No. 09/416,888, filed October 13, 1999, which is a CIP of 09/210,852, now U.S. Patent No. 6,187,233, both of which are incorporated into the instant application by reference. It is respectfully requested that the instant application be amended as set forth above prior to initial examination thereof. Claims 29-32 are pending.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100